

that the military is a better partner with local communities to provide livability wherever our facilities are located.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I endorse the rule and the bill.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 4425.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REYNOLDS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 502 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4425.

□ 1209

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present to the House the recommendation for the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. This is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for his assistance in putting this bill together this year once again. We have tried to work together to solve many of the problems that our military faces today. We have gone out and looked at various locations. We have gone around the world together a number of times looking at the various projects, trying in a learning mode to get a bill that we can all agree upon.

This bill presented to the House today totals \$8.6 billion. This represents a \$293 million, or 3 percent increase from last year's appropriation. However, the bill reflects a reduction of \$1.3 billion or 13 percent from the enacted level just 4 years ago. The bill is within the 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays. The rec-

ommendations before the House are solid, and fully fund priority projects for the services and our troops.

The legislation helps meet the needs of our military families and improving our national security infrastructure. It is fiscally responsible, while supporting the housing, child care, and medical needs of our military.

Within the \$8.6 billion provided, we have been able to address quality-of-life issues, including \$759 million for troop housing, \$43 million for child development centers, \$141 million for hospital and medical facilities, \$26 million for environmental compliance, \$859 million for new family housing units and for improvements to existing units, and \$2.7 billion for operation and maintenance of existing family housing units.

This year we have worked closely with the authorization committee, and I would like to recognize the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), whose chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities will end at the conclusion of this Congress. This subcommittee has appreciated his cooperation and commitment to funding the infrastructure needs of our servicemen and their families the past 6 years.

In conclusion, this \$8.6 billion is less than 3 percent of the total defense budget and only 3 percent above last year's funding level, but this \$8.6 billion directly supports the men and women of our Armed Services. It increases productivity, readiness and recruitment, all very vital to a strong national defense.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following for the RECORD.